

VISITATION
Of the
Fathers Love,
To all the
Elect-Children:
OR AN
EPISTLE

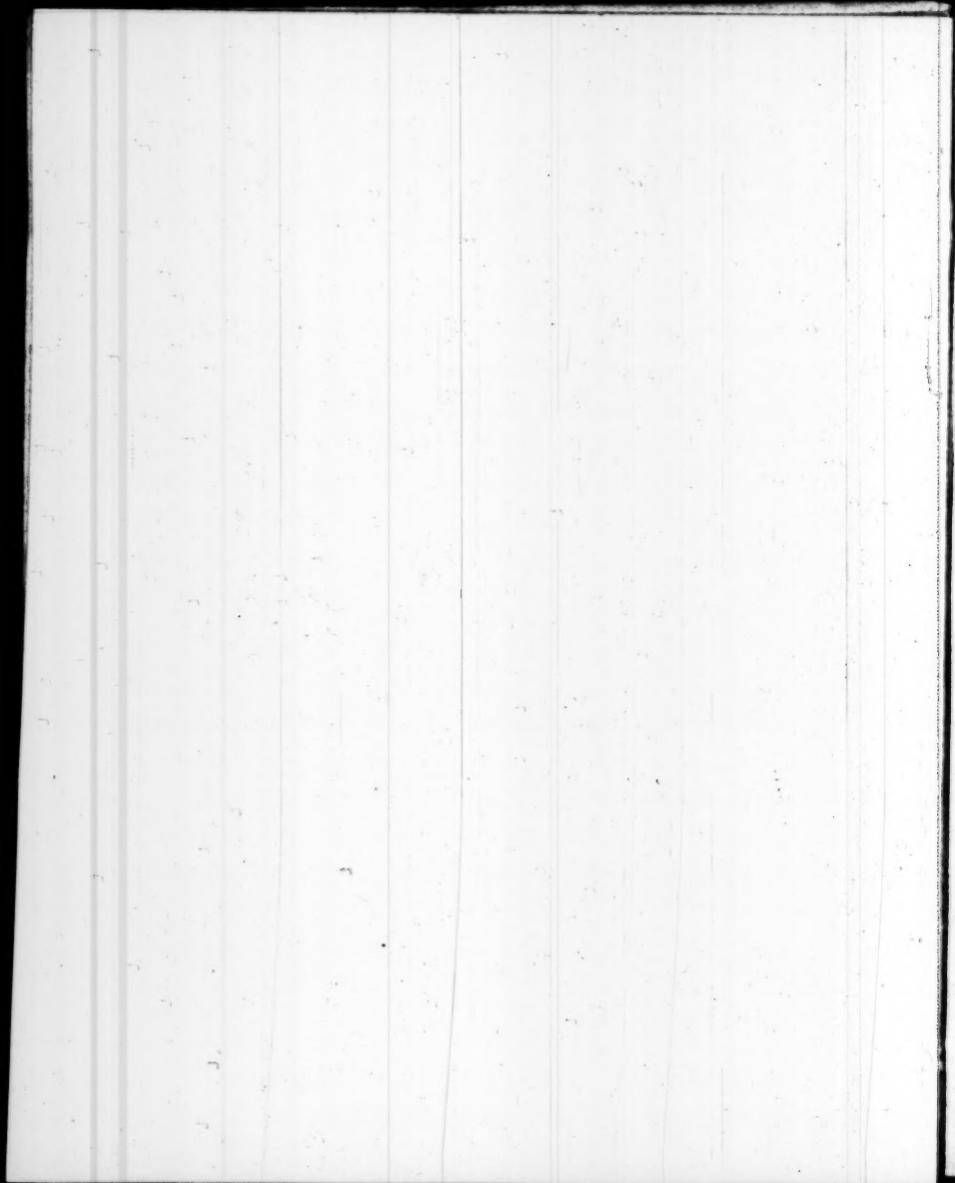
Unto the Righteous *CONGREGATIONS*, who
in the *LIGHT* are gathered, and are Wor-
shippers of the Father in *Spirit and Truth*.

*To be read amongst them in the pure fear of the Lord God,
when they are Assembled and met together in his Name.*

By *William Smith.*

L O N D O N ,

Printed, and are to be sold by *Robert Wilson* at the
Sign of the *Black-spread Eagle and Windmill*, in
Martins near Aldersgate, 1660.



A tender *VISITATION* of the Fa- thers Love, to all the Elect-*Children*.

Dear FRIENDS and BRETHREN,

The day is the Lords, he hath appeared *you to visit*, and unto him *must the gathering be*, his Work is great, his Arme is powerful, he hath made it bare, it rules for him, Nations shall know it, and all People shall behold the appearance of his might, he hath dealt with you *in mercy*, and yet is his Judgments true; he sought you *in his love* when there was none to help, he saved by his Power when all beheld you and passed by, *who can declare his goodness?* or *who can shew forth his loving kindness?* he hath wrought with his Arme, and his right hand hath done valiantly, mighty things is come to pass thereby, he found you *in the Wildernes*, and upon Mountains scattered, he prepared *a way for you*, and hath brought you into the *Valleyes*; great things hath he done, and prosperous hath his Work been, this is his Day, long it hath been waited for, and the cry hath been for the appearance of it, it is now come, and in it is his Work wrought; you that waited for it, and did abide it, are blessed, for dreadful was his appearance whil'st the wicked stood in his sight, and as a consuming fire he came to destroy them, that many shrunk from him, and could not abide the day of his coming, but fled from his Righteous Judgments, who had truly waited for his Appearance, his Wrath was hot, and his stroak was heavy, and his rising was like a man of War, so that his Enemies fell before him, and were scattered by his Arm, the mighty could not stand, but from their seat he brought them down; *he spake and the Earth trembled, he uttered his voice and the Hills melted*; it is you that have beheld his mighty acts, who did abide the day of his coming, and fled not from his Arm of power, but gave his enemies into his hand, and did not love your lives to death; then did you feel the strength of his might, who came in power to redeem his chosen, then did the womb of the morning o-

pen, then did sore travail come upon you, pangs took hold on every side, and great was the cries that then was heard; now was your Deliverance nigh at hand, and his only begotten came into the World, this was the day in which the poor found help, and that of low degree was raised up, then the Prisoner came out of the pit, and the Captive was delivered out of Iron bonds, so did his work prosper in his hand, and deliverance came by his eternal Power, you felt his terror upon the wicked, and none was able to resist his might, his stroak was heavy on your loynes, and feebleness possest your reins, for in his wrath he sealed you down, and you languisht in the deep distress, then did your cry *go up unto him*, and the earnest breathed for relief, his bowels yearned to his own, and his love brake forth like a mighty stream, his ear was open for to hear, and his Arme ready to deliver, for he remembred his holy Covenant, and his own Inheritance whom he had chosen, he did not leave you when you were weary, nor forsake you when you were feeble, but in the deep he was your strength, and in your travail he you upheld, so did he lead you in his Mercy, and yet his Judgments are all true, you walked in the narrow way, and his Arm of power was your support, he brought you thorow the gate of Death, and raised up the feed of Life, his love is not to be expressed, nor the works of his hands to be declared, for in the midst of Judgment he remembred Mercy, and his eye of pitty was open towards you, the Lyon could not prey upon you, his mouth he stopped; the Devourer could not spoil you, him he judged; Pharaoh could not keep you, him he Plagued; the Grave could not shut you up, that he opened, and out of the horrible pit he you delivered; then did the poor find help in his Power, and the needy was relieved in his Mercy, he stretched forth his Arm, and Salvation came, and that was wrought which no other could do, though you had run from man to man, and had enquired after God, and sought to have obtained Peace, yet none could bring true tydings of it, but still you mourned for want of Life, and travelled in the anguish of your Spirits, running but obtained not, seeking but could not find, until you was wearied in sore travail, and ready to faint under your heavy burthens; then did you *cry in your deep distress*, and he heard out of his holy Hill; he made the Fountain open wide, and his Salvation did not tar-
ry,

ry; he gave you ease and made you glad, and brought you into a wealthy place, that your joy in his presence did increase, and the dayes of mourning passed away, for his w^rork in you he brought to passe, and accomplished the thing which he had determined.

Oh Friends, what hath the Lord done for you ! pen cannot write, nor tongue declare; you were lost and he sought you, Strangers and he gathered you, Enemies and he Reconciled you, Sinners and he Saved you; what could the Lord do more for you ? Mountains are fallen, the Earth is melted, the Devourer is spoil'd, for against the mighty hath the Lord appeared, and his work hath been prosperous in his hand, he hath brought death upon the first man, and all his deeds he hath destroyed, he hath quickned the second, and in his power he is raised, and in glory is his only begotten come into the world, and unto him must the gathering be; you are blessed in whom he is revealed, who feels your Union with his Life, and your Translation into his Likeness; abide with him, depart not from him, for there is not another that can save, or can refresh the wearied ones, for many have forsaken him, and have not continued faithful to him, though for a time they followed him, and whil'st they did abide was faithful in him, but when Tribulation came they started aside, and is turned into a withered branch, for they could not abide the Judgement, nor the straitness of the way to walk in, but sought for ease and a carnal liberty, and so departed from the Lord after they was Enlightned, and of his Word and Power tasted; and having Erred from the Right Way, they have been again Entangled, and a yoke of bondage is come upon their necks, so hath the Enemy wrought upon them, and drawn them from the needful thing, that no Life is possessed, nor Power enjoyed, but Antichrist Exalted, and the Temple filled with a dry spirit, that deadnes and drowsiness is over the living, the oyl being stopt, the spirit of slumber entred, & the Lamp is filled with it, that when he comes he is not regarded, nor no Readiness to receive him, for there is no delight in waiting for him, so have many lost their First Love, and are Erred from the Way of Life.

Oh Friends ! there was a time in which he was more precious unto you, when in the day he called you, and in his love did visit you, then was your hearts upright towards him, and your

joy did abound in him, that you could have left all to follow him, and nothing was deare unto you for his sake; then was the Oyl powred forth freely, and the favour of it was sweet unto you, and your Lamps in brightness burned in that day, and Life and Power you truly enjoyed, and in sweet tenderness you was alwaies kept, waiting his presence in you to feel, and the brightness of his glory to behold, your earnest was so much unto him, that nothing could satisfie but the enjoyment of him; Oh how sweet was his Word unto you in that Day, how was you quickned and enlarged in it, that you could have run and not been weary, such was your delight in his Commandements, how did you then attend to his Counsel, and from his mouth received Instruction, it was your Meat and Drink to do his Will, whilst the tenderness did abide upon you, and that which God had raised was fresh and living in you, then was your eye kept single to him, and was not after other Lovers, your delight was in him placed, and in sweet Union with his Life you lived, in the measure which then you had received, and therein was your lives refreshed, and every morning your strength renewed, that there was not then a feeble Person, nor no weariness nor faintness was upon you, but the living Power quickned, and revived you, and a sweet favour of life was then felt amongst you. Oh consider! for it was better with many in that day, then now, who have forsaken their first Love, and are again come under the vail, and doth not feel the springs of life in freshness, to keep them awake and living unto God; Oh come within my Friends, for this Book is opened to be read, divide a right, feel in the Power, see to the Root what springs up, what is the fruit, taste and see how it is, search to the bottom, mind Gods Witness, it will not deceive you, it will let you all see your conditions plainly, it will not bring one thing to Light, and hide another, but it will bring all up, that you may read thorow with an understanding, from the first day untill now, for the Witness is true, and will bear witness unto the Truth in all, and what is out of the Truth it will reprove without respect of Persons; so may all see your present states, as the witness is minded and takes heed unto, and it will keep all down to the measure of Truth, and then none will seem to be above what they are: And upon whomsoever the Witness smites, hearken to it,

it, and as it opens your present states, turn not away your ear, that whoever have err'd, and from your first Love departed, may again return: Oh he is near you, he waits for you, come, he will not Reject you, but will freely heal you, for yet is the Day of his Mercy to you; for verily many are cooled, and many slumber, who in the day of tenderness truly tasted of the Word and Power, from which the Oyl was poured forth that caused their Lamps to bear a glorious shew; and this is a Lamentation in Iſrael this day, the glory thereofin many seems to fade, and a dry covering comes over in its place, all may read as you mind the Light, so will every one know your present states, for the eyes of many hath been abroad, and things hath been looked at and reasoned about, and in the visible the mind hath run, untill the Vail hath been secretly drawn, that fears hath entered, and their faith Surprized, and then hath wavered, that they have been driven back and their strength spoiled, and so are many gone astray, and neither finds springes nor pasture: So all be diligent, search out the Matter, the Light will find it where it is, and let all see where you are, and what you feed upon, for the Fathers Love sends to you all, that the strayed may be gathered, and the faithful establisht, and though there may be some which will not hearken, yet shall Iſraels glory stand, and all that are willing thither to come, though you have err'd, it shall not be remembred, but the healing virtue of life you shall all taste and feel; Oh hearken, come, delay not, the Matter is weighty.

And all you dear and tender ones, born of the Immortal seed, sweet and precious are you all, the Fountain opens freely unto you, the Fathers love cannot hold from you, for you are his own, he hath Chosen you, and over you is his Arm stretched out, your feet stands in a sure place, and your Foundation none can remove, happy are you that be in such a case, yea blessed for ever, who hath chosen the Lord to be your God, you have stood in the judgement, and in the Croſs hath walked, and nothing could turn your feet aside, you have not been Entangled though often allureſ, you have been kept out of the Fowlers net, and from him have you been preserved, so in your stations you have stood, and hath not swarved from the Lord, but in his Power hath been kept, and your Integrity you have Retained, you

you are the living branches who in the *Immortal* knowes your *Life*, your *Leafe* shall not wither, neither shall your *Blossom* fade, but glorious shall your *Fruit* be, for in the *River* of *Pleasure* your *Root* is placed, he hath weaned you from the world his *life* to *delight* in, he feeds you dayly with the fatness of his *House*, and gives you to drink of his *Fulness* freely; Oh what is like unto your *Portion*, ye tender *Plants*, your *Bread* is sure, and your *Water* faileth not, your dwelling place is full of *Pleasantness*, and your *peace* no man can *take away*, the Lord hath formed you in the womb, and in his *Power* hath brought you forth, to make you a *Holy People* to himself, and a *Generation* to take *delight* in; Children of his *Love* you are, and his *mercy* is *Endless* unto you, his *Seed* he hath raised in you to *Raign*, and made you *Subjects* to his *Power*, in the *Covenant* of *Life* he hath *Sealed* you up, and who shall separate you from his *Love*? *Who is sufficient for these things?* or, *Who can shew forth his Mighty acts?* Oh let not his *mercies* be forgotten, nor his *loving kindness* slip out of your *minds*, for his own *Arm* hath wrought his *Work*, and in his *Power* you have been made to *stand*, else had you been as others are, for *no Temptation* but is *Common*, and none can *stand* but in his *Power*, for he alone is *Israels keeper*, therefore the *Boaster* is *Excluded*, and all the *loftie* is *cast down*, who in their *Difference* seems to *Glory*, and *smites* at others who in some things may *Differ* from them, and would have none come near to them but such as in the *likeness* of their *Holiness* doth appear, and who appears not with them, such they *Judge*, and who *Receives* and *owns* them, such is there *Love* unto in the *affection*, and so runs into a *Self-separation* and *particular Union*, and this doth not refresh the *Seed*, nor travails not to set it free.

Oh dear Friends, *watch* over this *Spirit*, that it may not have a place in any of you to *Rule*, for the *Fruit* of it is *Bitterness*, and the *End* of it is *Desolation*, therefore be you all stayed in the pure measure of the *Love* of God *Received*, that therein you may bind & heal, cherish and succour every breathing desire that thirsts after the *Lord God*, not looking at the appearance, nor Judging according to that, but to feel in the measure of the *Love* and *Life*, the true *state* of every one, and so to divide aright, that however any do appear, the *Cry* of the *Immortal*

may be felt, and the ~~state~~ thereof truly Discerned, that you may reach forth an Arm to all that stand in need, and do good to all in tenderness, alwayes considering what makes you to differ, for verily Friends the Lords dear Seed breaths after him out of all *Forms and Appearances*, and he is gathering and bringing forth a People out of the *Traditions*, who cannot live any longer therein, such is the Earnest after God in many this Day, unto whom his tender *Visitation of Love* is Reached forth; so put not a difference in *Forms & Appearances*, but in their true ground where the difference stands, that betwixt the births you may truly divide, for the least breathing after God in *Tenderness* is to be *Cherished in all*, under what *Form or Appearance* soever they do yet abide, & the Lord is gathering a People in his *Mercy* out of all *Professions*; to make them partakers of his *living Truth*, whose understandings he is opening, to behold the wonderful things that he is bringing to passe in this his Day, so let your bowels be open unto all, that in the *Love* wherewith the Father hath loved you, and gathered you, in the same *Love* according to the measure, you may reach to the *Seed of God in all*, that every tender Plant may be refreshed, and all the weak and feeble may be strengthened and comforted, that every one in their measures may be considered, and as they stand Faithful unto God therein, even so to be nourished and tendered in *Love*, that all may be brought to a measure of *God in themselves*, and every one therein to feel there *Union* with God and *one another*, that so all Friends who are gathered into Gods *Truth* this Day, may be Translated into his *likeness*, and bear his *Image*, who is *Love*, for he hath opened his *Love* in freeness to you, and hath largely ministred forth of the *Riches* of it, and this he doth require, that you should *Love one another* in that *Love* wherewith he hath loved you, and this will make you glorious as this covering is received upon you, and by it shall all men know that you are *true followers* of him, whose Name you profess, for it draws you near him, and *unites* you to him, and makes your truly *like* him, and it will close you all up in the *purifie* of it self, and *Unite* you perfectly *together*, and preserve you all in *tenderness* to God and *one another*, that there will not be an *Evil Eye* amongst you, but the *Strong* will bear with the *Weak*, and not seek so much to please themselves; and this is that which

truly bears, and endures all things, and travails to remove burdens, and to ease the oppressed, Cherishing that which breathes in all, but cannot hurt it in any: Oh waite dear Friends in the *Love of the Father* to abide, for it is a sweet thing for brethren there to dwell, and let us consider one another, that we may provoke one another more unto love, until it be our garment to cover us throughout, that nakednes may not appear in any, so will all be *healers* and not *hurters*, *nourishers*, and not *destroyers*, and this is well pleasing unto the Lord, and a service that is accepted of him, for it is the travail of the *Seed* to set free, and to bring out of all straitness, that *Unity* may be held and Increased, and every *Plant* may be preserved, and all the *Body* kept in sweet order, that every *Member* may feel its *Union* with the *Head*, and there Receive its nourishment, so will a supply be ministered unto that part which lacketh, and every *Member* will stand serviceable in its place, and bear its proper office in the *Body*, and none to say to each other, I have no need of thee, but all to stand in the pure *Unity* of *Life* it self, and there perfectly joyned in the one heart, so will the *Lords Name* be one, and his *People* one, and his service and *Worship* one, and this will keep all in a sweet favour unto God, and a deareness and tenderness one towards another, and unto this hath the Lord called you, wait for the increase of it more amongst you, that love unseveredly may abound, and the life of Righteousnes may stand in Dominion, that so for the soul you may all watch, and with a tender eye be careful one over another, that the *Body* may truly edifie it self in *Love*, and all may receive comfort one of another, then will the Lord of *Life* delight in you, and dwell amongst you, and water you dayly in his *fresh Springs*, and feed you with the *Heritage of Jacob* for ever.

Oh dear Lamb, prize the *Lords Mercies* over all, for unto a high calling he hath called you, be single unto him, that his *Love* you may answer in walking worthy of all his *Mercies*, so in his *Power* he will preserve, and with his *Arm* defend, that no weapon formed against you shall prosper, for his care is over his own, and unto his *Chosen* doth his *Love* reach, for a good *Shepherd* he is over his *Flock*, always taking care for them, he leads them where good *Pasture* is, he feeds them with the *choicest* food, his *Rod* is alwaies stretched forth, and in it doth their *Comfort*.

Confort stand, his *safe* is near them to defend, that the *De-
moner* cannot *Spoil*, nor with his teeth make them a *prey*, he
stands by them in the *Day*, and in the *Night* he leaves them not,
for *Israels* keeper doth not *slumber*; you are his *Chosen*, his
Flock, his *People*, who are of the *immortal* *born*, your place is
safe, your strength is sure, abide within and in the *Life* be ever
stayed, for in your *Tent* you rest in *Peace*, and blessed are you
for evermore.

And let not that eye be opened which would be looking forth,
but in your *Tent* abide with God, that in his gathering you
may *Stand*, and in his *Rest* your *dwelling-place* may be; and
heed not man, nor his doings, for some hath been hurt with
looking there, and hath lost their *union* with the *Life*, having
looked so much *A broad*, untill they have suffered loss at *Home*,
and whilst the eye hath thus beheld, it hath been dazzled more
and more, and when the end could not be seen, then in the
astonishment they have sunk down, and into much sorrow have
been plunged; let not your minds be so *abroad*, but keep your
habitation *within*, and see mans time and day, and what it is, and
neither regard his *Why* nor *Doings*, for if he do well he is *Accep-
ted*, but if *evil* he will be *Scourged*, for man is not to be heeded,
for the *Lord* is above him and all his waies, and hath his heart
in his hand, and at his pleasure can turn it, and what comes to
pass is *By his Permission*, and unto all that love him it works
for good, therefore let none say, *why hath the Lord done this?* or,
why is it thus come to pass? but all know your gathering unto
God, and with him abide, and let *patience* be your covering, and
meeknes the girdle of your *toynes*, for the *Lord* hath a work
to do and it must be done by whom he will, if he bring up the
ASSTRIAN to be a *Rod*, and make the *CALDEANS* an
overflowing Scourge, who shall say under him, *why doest thou so?*
they have their time, he layes them by, and they *pacaway*,
that all may know there is a *Gathering* *Israels*.

Oh dear hearts, be ye all *Faithful* unto the *Lord* *God*, for
large is his *Love* towards you, he will not leave you nor forsake
you, but will alway by you, and deliver you out of all your
troubles, for he is *strong* strength, and the *Saluation* of his
Chosenes, trust in his *power* and in his *Power* believe, for he
is able to *Save*; though the *Destroyer* pursue, and violently af-
fault,

saul, yet is he neare to be a present help unto you, infinite is his *Loving Kindness* unto you, who are upright in heart, his *Arm* hath gathered you, his *Arm* preserves and saves you, that the wicked one doth not touch you, he hath *Succoured* and *Relieved* you, when the *storm* hath blown sore upon you, he hath quieted the *Wind* and the *Sea* when it hath *Raged* to overwhelm you, his everlasting *Power* you have felt, and his renewed *Mercies* from day to day: Oh wait in the *Light* that all his *Mercies*, you may *read*, and every *Visitation* of his *Tender Love* may be alwaies fresh upon your hearts, that you may be kept sensible of his everlasting *Kindness*, and manifold *Mercies* from time to time bestowed: You are the blessed of the *Lord*, who in his *Power* are kept *Faithful*, and have not *Erred* from his *way*, though often tempted, yet by him preserved, that your *Confidence* in his *Power* doth abide, which gives you *victory* over all the *Powers* of *Darkness*, for in you is the *seed* of *Life* raised, who is both *Lord* and *King*, and though the *Enemy* do pursue you, and casts floods of *wrath* and *fury* after you, yet in the *Authority* and *Power* of your *King* you have *Dominion* over him, therefore look not at *Temptations* when they come, but keep your eye to the *Lord*, and be stayed in that which doth discover them, so will he make away for you to escape them, and keep up your Heads above them, and though your *troubles* may be great, yet will the *Lord* deliver you out of all, and through the *Exercise* of *Faith* and *Presence* he will establish you in his *Holy Hill*, and Seal you up in the *Covenants* of *Eternal life*, there to rest in the bosom of his dear *Love* for evermore!

So let not the thing seem small in your eyes, for it is the *Arm* of his *Mercy*, which unto you hath reached, therefore above all things to be prized, that you should be called and counted *worthy* to believe in his *Holy Name*, and in his everlasting *Truth* revealed, and also overcome by him to be followers of him in *Love*, and to know the operation of his *Power*, by which your minds are renewed, and Translated into a measure of his *pure Life*, which in you is made manifest by the *Revelation* of *Jesus Christ*, who in you hath appeared *Sin* to destroy, and *Everlasting Righteousnes*s to bring in, of which you are *partakers* through the *Riches* of his *Grace* by *Faith*, wherein ye stand: The everlasting *God* of *Life* and *Power* keep

keep you all, who in the measure of love received, lives up in the pure obedience to answer the Lord's kindness, dayly waiting upon him, that in his wisdom all the works of his hands may be ordered to his everlasting praise.

And all Dear Friends, who in the Lord service stands to bear forth a Testimony in bonds and sufferings, or any other way therein do witness to the Truth of God in your measures, and against all *Deceit, Oppression, Cruelty, and Wrong*, a *Visitation of the Father's Love* reacheth unto you all; Oh feel the living Power your Souls to refresh, and your strength dayly to Renew, that none may be weary or faint in your minds, but all in faithfulness may be upheld to God, keep your eye out of the world and those things which you have left behind, for thither will the Enemy oft be drawing and enticing your minds, to Entangle you, but all be watchful that out of his *Snare* you may be kept, for the Lord is excising your patience, to wean you from the love of the World, and all the things that is in it, that your *Part* and *Portion* may be in his *Life*, and your hearts in him alone may delight, that for his sake all other things may be given up freely into his *Will*, that nothing may be a *Bondage to the Just*, or *Imprison the Righteous Seed*, but that in his *Power* he may *Raign*, all other things to put under his *Feet*, that nothing may be a Cumber to your mind, so will your bonds be sweet unto you, and work together for your good; for dear is the *Father's love* unto you, his living presence wait to feel, and that will make your *Consolation to abound*, above all your *Sufferings*, and lift you up over all that would cast you down, and in waiting the Lord will give you strength to bear, and patience to endure, untill *Iniquity* have had its day, and the *Sufferings* be filled up.

And be contented with your present states, and none grudge or murmur in your minds, but all stand freely given up, that you may willingly serve the Lord in what he calls unto, or permits to come upon you, so will his *Blessing* and *Peace* abide with you for Ever.

For now is the Lord trying all the wayes and doings of the Children of men, and what is not of Him must fall before Him, for he will not spare the Evil doer, though for a time he may go on, and boast himself against the Lord, and persecute those that fears his Name, yet his *End* must come, and his *Wickedness* upon his head will fall, and as a whirlwind from the Almighty it will light upon him,

him ; and as the Summer chaff he will be driven away ; and be no more, for the Lord is hastening and cutting the work short in Righteousness; therefore fear not your adversaries, nor who, or what they be that turns against you , for it is an evident token unto them of perdition , but to you of salvation and that of God , for many have already had their day , and the Lord hath tryed them what they would doe, and they have all betrayed their trust , and turned against his Power , and none that have been Faithful to him , for he tryed them all , and gave to each of them their Day , but none regarded what was put into their hands , but carelessly neglected it , so he pulled down one , and he set up another , and as their zeal did arise , and that they came to Profess more then others before them , he gave unto them their Day , and tryed them if they would perform what they Professed , but they have been all found Deceitful , and as bitter fruit did spring from such as did Profess , as from those that was pulled down before them , and nothing hath been done by any of them , as to what they might have done , either for God or his People , but from one to another the Took hath been continued , and the spirit of Persecution hath Reigned , and the loyns of one hath been as heavy as the loyns of another , and none that did regard the Cry of the afflicted ; wherefore the Lord hath removed them , and given their Day into the hands of others , whom he hath brought up to be a scourge unto them , and a Cloud to cover them , for the Lord tryed them All , if any could have been found amongst them that would have done good , that he might have placed them , and set them up in Power to have Ruled , but they all proved Corrupted , and none performed when they was Intrusted , but went backward and drew downward , and forgot the Lord and his Benefits , turning one against another for self Interests , and then strive and contended , until the Lords Spirit was grieved and vexed in beholding their Wickedness , and his Wrath kindled against them , and he stretched out his Arm and overturned them , and hath brought up a People to be a just Recampe unto them , and a Cloud over them , under which their Sun is set .

What is Man or his way that he should be feared ? though he set himself on High and boast of great things , the Lord Rules over him , and in a moment brings him down , and all his glory passeth away as untimely frost , if he do not the thing that is just , the Righteous God finds him out , and lays him naked to all pasture by , what-

whatever he may profess, and to the inside of many are discovered in this *Day of Tryal*, who professed much, and boasted of great things, but when they were tryed, then they betrayed and brought forth nothing but their own *deceitful Workings*, neither regarding the Lord, nor fearing his Name; so he laid them all by as *Useless* in his *Service*, and hath stained the pride of their glory, that man in all his profession may behold what he is, for all their *Professions* is brought to Light, and *none* hath done the thing that is right, therefore are they smitten, & their Foundation shaken, that fear on every side takes hold upon them, & like blind men they grope & can not find a resting-place, for their way is *closed up*; and they have lost their *aim*, and are all *Scattered*, that many are turned into that way again which once they departed from, and contended against, and hath lost the favour of all that which seemingly they once *Professed*; and thus hath the Lord God in a little time tryed the wayes and doings of many of the *Children of men*, and in the *Balance of Truth* hath weighed them and their *Professions*, and hath found them as *light as Vanity*, and as *Airy Shadows* they are passed away, and are all dead and withered, as if they had never been, and now is he trying others. So dear *Lambs*, all in Gods Power waite, which through all changeable things abides, and do not depart from it at any time, for in that have you been kept in *Faithfulness to stand*, that you are not *shaken*, nor driven away from your *Hope & Confidence*, but still abides in *Uprightness* to the *Truth of God*, feeling the sure *Foundation* which no man can *shake* or *prevail* against; this is to be prized by you in the pure *fear*, and not to be gloriéd in with a *fleshy confidence*, for it is the *Lords own work*, and it is *marvellous to behold*, that you who are so much by men despised, should in Gods *Arm* be still *Preserved*, and are not *shaken* from your *Hope*, though many *storms* have blown upon you; Oh feel the *Living* in which you are *upheld*, that faithful to the *end* you may be kept, for waiting so to be *preserved*, you shall be everlastingly *saved*, and glorious will your *Reward* be, for the *Winter* is not yet quite over, though many *storms* hath sorely beat, yet there is *some* will still arise, and many will vanish in their *appearance*, but some will fall and shall be *felt*, and in their time they will be quick, for all is drawing near an *End*, but the glorious *Life* none can *destroy*; therefore look not at man for he hath been *tryed*, and is manifest to be *Corrupted*, and all his wayes

perverse

perverse and froward, and nothing else from man can be expected, until he come to a measure of Gods Spirit to be guided, so what may appear from man do not you regard, or whether it seem with you or against you, let not your minds look after it, but dwell in Gods Power, and if he work for you, and turn many hearts to do something that is right; let all flesh be silent, and all boasting excluded, that God in his own work may be *Gloryfied*; and if any thing from man appear against you, keep to the *Power to preserve* you, and in the measure of that pure *Eternal Life* be ye all stayed, for there is *Safety*, there is *Peace*, *Satisfaction* and *eternal Rest*; and in that abiding, you will all be kept from *Faiming* or *Failing*, and your strength daily will be renewed, and your hearts always enlarged, the way of his *Command* to run, and nothing will be grievous to you; so will the *Truth* be gloriously exalted, and the *Lords name* honoured, who is over all for evermore blessed.

Oh tender *Babes*, sweet is your favour, you give a pleasant smell, be ye all cloathed with a *Low, Meek, and Quiet Spirit*, and in the *stillness* waite to receive your *Portion*, and in the *coolness* drink of the *River* of his *Pleasure*, for his *Mercy* endures for ever, and his *Bountifullness* is opened freely, all the *fresh springs* are in him, and his own *Right Hand* gives *daily Bread*; Oh feed in the *Pasture* of *Life*, that in the *tenderness* you may daily grow, feeling the *sweet refreshings* of his *living presence*, and in the *life* of *Righteousness* bear his *Image*, and so will your *Ornament* adorn the *Gospel*, and *Beautiful* will you be in the *eyes* of all *Beholders*: And the *Lord of Life* and *Power* season you all continually, *Confirm, Strengthen, and Establish* you daily, that *High* and *Low, Bond* and *Free, Male* and *Female*, may evermore feel your *Union* in the *Life* of *Truth*, that with one accord we may lift up our *voynce* to *Magnifie his Name together*, who is over all *Gods and Kings*, alone worthy to be praised and glorified for *Ever and Ever*.

Grace, Mercy and Peace, be unto you all, from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dear *Lambs*, my *Life* breaths after you, and with you it is wrapped up, either to *rejoyce* or suffer in the *will* of *God*.

Your Dear Brother in the Immortal.

William Smith.

T H E E N D.

